

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The first School Committee meeting for August was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 in the Town Council Chambers at 125 Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:10 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, William Day, Sue Cienki and Merrill Friedemann as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. Public Comments (15 minutes) for items not on the agenda

Mr. Peter McLaren, Science Department Chair, spoke about the School Committee commenting on a science candidate's 16 year old transcript. He noted that there was no mention of her graduate work, or her state certification in Chemistry. He added that the candidate has a history of positive grades. Mr. McLaren feels that the dialogue by School Committee members was unprofessional and political grandstanding.

Bonnie DiMeo, Special Education Department Chair, stated that this is her 25th year at the high school. She spoke about difficulty in retaining and recruiting applicants. She feels that there are serious

problems in morale because of the School Committee. She feels that Carol Brown, who will be going to the Westerly Schools, was outstanding in her position. She also noted that the School Committee should respect and value teachers and administrators, and negotiate a fair and equitable contract.

3. New Business

3.1 Personnel Considerations

3.1a Resignations

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to accept the following resignations:

3.1.1 Daniel Dobbins, Mathematics, 1.0 at Cole Middle School, effective 7-22

3.1.2 Peter McLaren, Science Department Head, effective August 25, 2005

3.1.3 Carol Brown, Director of Student Services, effective August 1, 2005

3.1.4 Richard Hilton, Director of Facilities, effective July 31, 2005

3.1.5 Connie Zack, newspaper advisor at Cole Middle School, effective, 7-5-05

3.1.6 A. Dalia Pucci, 0.4 Physical Science Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective July 18, 2005. The motion passed unanimously with the School Committee stating that these people are very qualified and they will be a great loss to the system.

3.1b Parental leaves

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to

approve the following parental leaves:

3.1.7 Mary Anderson, grade 3 at Meadowbrook School, for the 2005-2006 school year.

3.1.8 Leslie Lee, music teacher at Hanaford, from October 14, 2005 until 1-20-06.

3.1.9 Stephanie Rozakis, Intensive Resource at Meadowbrook, for 2005-2006.

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3.1.10 Lisa Gemma, Speech and Language Pathologist at the Frenchtown School, for the 2005-2006 school year.

3.1.11 Nina Reiner, art teacher at Cole Middle School, from August 30, 2005 until November 7, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

3.1c Appointments

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the following appointments with the exception of 4.1.22, Keith Doucette.

3.1.12 Cheryl Ryan, Head Custodian at Meadowbrook Farms School, effective 8-1-05 3.1.13 Kelly Grennan, 1.0 science Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective 8-30-05 3.1.14 Patricia Winters, 1.0 Reading Teacher for the Frenchtown, effective 8-30-05 3.1.15 Sharon Ferrera, Intensive Resource at Frenchtown School, effective 8-30-05

3.1.16 Randi Volpe, 0.7 Spanish Teacher at East Greenwich High

School, effective August 30, 2005, pending receipt of her certification from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

3.1.17 Lara Parish, 1.0 Social Studies Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 30, 2005

3.1.18 Andrew Perrin, 1.0 Social Studies Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 30, 2005

3.1.19 Karen Smith, 1.0 Intensive Resource at Hanaford Elementary School, effective August 30, 2005

3.1.20 Amy Bell, 1.0 one year only grade 6 at Hanaford Elementary School, effective August 30, 2005

3.1.21 Dorothy Carter, 1.0 Special Education Resource Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective August 30, 2005

3.1.22 Keith Doucette, additional 0.2 technology education at East Greenwich High School. He is currently a 1.0 tenured teacher and will take on an additional 0.2 position, for one year only, effective August 30, 2005. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of the Keith Doucette appointment.

4. Appointment of 0.6 Athletic Director effective 8-20-05

This item will be addressed at the August 16 meeting.

5. Creation of unbudgeted paraprofessional position at Meadowbrook Farms School to support a student new to the district. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the new paraprofessional position at Meadowbrook Farms School. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of aftermath issues of financial consolidation

Mrs. Crawford stated that the town and school finances were

consolidated on July 1, 2005. She noted that the staff at the schools and central office were trained as were department heads. She feels that the consolidation was smooth and seamless. Mrs. Crawford stated that we need to re-visit how to delegate duties.

Public Comments

Mrs. Joanne Leach thanked Mrs. Carol Brown for her work and noted that she has provided assistance and support to staff. She stated that Westerly's gain is East Greenwich's loss. Mrs. Leach also questioned why the Athletic Director's position was advertised as a full-time administrative position when it was always a union position.

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Mr. Peter McLaren stated his new position is an enormous opportunity for his family. He added that Cole is where he grew up, and a lot of people have touched his life. He also recognized Mr. Meyers as a fine administrator.

Mrs. Debra McMullen stated that she thought the athletic director's job should be full-time but now she is concerned that it is being looked at as a management position. She feels that making the position full-time could scare away in-house applicants. Mrs. McMullen also spoke about cleanliness of the girls' locker rooms at

Cole and the High School.

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2)

for Personnel Issues, Teacher Grievances, Teacher Contract Negotiations, and Paraprofessional Contract Negotiations, consideration of increasing salary of interim principal/assistant principal, and consideration of increasing salary of truant officer.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary